

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5709

S E C R E T THE HAGUE 1968

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR, NL
SUBJECT: CIVAIR-KLM CAPACITY

REF: STATE 086466; THE HAGUE 1612; THE HAGUE 1506

1. I BELIEVE A MEETING BETWEEN YOU AND MINISTER OF
TRANSPORT WESTERTEP WOULD BE MOST DESIRABLE AT THIS
JUNCTURE IF AIMED AT FINAL KLM SETTLEMENT; BUT I SEE
CONSIDERABLE DANGER AND NO ADVANTAGE IN RAISING
DENUNCIATION WHICH DUTCH WILL ONLY CONSIDER THREATENING.

2. YOUR MEETING SHOULD BE SEEN IN CONTEXT OF TWO
IMPORTANT EVENTS: THE MAY 14 VISIT WITH
PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER BY PRIME MINISTER
DEN UYL AND FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL, AND THE
RECENT EXPRESSION BY KEY DEN JYL CABINET MEMBERS
FAVORING SELECTION OF THE YF-16.

3. REGRETTABLY, THE JUST-COMPLETED LABOR PARTY CONGRESS
PASSED VARIOUS NUTRALIST, ANTI-AMERICAN RESOLUTIONS
INCLUDING A PROHIBITION AGAINST SELECTION OF YF-16, A
CALL FOR THE DE-NUCLEARIZATION OF NATO, AND A DEMAND
THAT DUTCH NATO MEMBERSHIP BECOME CONDITIONAL. PM DEN
UYL, FONMIN VAN DER STOEL, MOD VREDELING AND FINANCE
MIN. DUISENBERG--FOUR OF THE FIVE KEY MINISTERS IN LWF

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SELECTION PROCESS--ARE ALL LABOR PARTY MEMBERS.

4. IN THE FACE OF THIS RADICAL ACTION BY THE LABOR CONGRESS, AND VARIOUS ACCOMPANYING THREATS FROM THE LEADERSHIP OF THE LABOR GROUP IN PARLIAMENT, DENUYL, VAN DER STOEL AND VREDELING HAVE SINCE MADE IT PERFECTLY CLEAR THAT THE GON WILL NOT DEVIATE FROM ITS SUPPORT FOR AND UNCONDITIONAL MEMBERSHIP IN NATO. ADDITIONALLY, VAN DER STOEL AND VREDELING HAVE STATED CATEGORICALLY THEIR RECOMMENDATION THAT THE GON SELECT THE F-16 WITHOUT DELAY.

5. WHILE WE MAY ALL DEPLORE THE NEUTRALIST TREND WHICH THE LABOR CONGRESS PORTENDS, AND WHILE WE CAN REGRET THAT THESE MINISTERS WERE UNABLE TO DETER THE RESOLUTIONS OF THEIR OWN PARTY, WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT, IN BUCKING THE CONGRESS THEY ARE ACTING COURAGEOUSLY AND IN OUR MUTUAL INTEREST.

6. TO ACHIEVE OUR MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF UNQUALIFIED DUTCH SUPPORT FOR NATO AND DUTCH SELECTION OF THE F16.IT SEEMS TO ME WE WHOULD NOW REINFORCE THE RESOLVE OF THESE MINISTERS TO OPPOSE THE IRRESPONSIBLE ELEMENTS WITHIN THEIR OWN PARTY.

7. THAT IS WHERE THE UPCOMING MEETING BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY AND DEN UYL AND VAN DER STOEL CAN BE OF ENORMOUS VALUE. IT SHOULD NOT BE CLOUDED BY THE UNRESOLVED KLM ISSUE, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, NOR SOURED BY CURRENT DENUNCIATION THREATS.

8. FOR THESE REASONS AND THOSE IN HAGUE 1612, I FEEL MORE CONVINCED THAN EVER THAT IT IS IN OUR NATIONAL INTEREST TO MOVE AFFIRMATIVELY NOW TO CLEAR UP THE KLM ISSUE ON THE BEST BASIS WHICH YOU COULD OBTAIN FROM WESTERTERP. AT LATEST READING THIS APPEARED TO BE 21 FLIGHTS PER WEEK LIMITED TO 570,000 SEATS FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR. POSSIBLY YOU COULD WORK WESTERTERP DOWN TO SPLIT THE FREQUENCY BETWEEN 21 IN SUMMER AND 20 IN WINTER.

9. IN RESUME, IT SEEMS EVIDENT TO ME THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS FAR TOO MANY IMPORTANT ISSUES AT STAKE IN
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ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NETHERLANDS TO ALLOW THAT RELATIONSHIP TO CONTINUE TO BE DISTORTED BY THE CIVIL AIR ISSUE WHEN A RESOLUTION OF THAT ISSUE ON A BASIS WHICH WOULD GAIN FOR THE U.S. AIR INDUSTRY A QUANTUM REDUCTION IN KLM TRAFFIC IS AVAILABLE NOW, AND WITHOUT RANCOR.
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